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ABSTRACT

School counselors have a whole network of information available to them in their work with students and parents. This paper lists information in seven areas concerning technology and school counselors that can be applied in their work. The areas include definition of terms, peer assistants, software programs, the Internet, popular tools for searching the Web, the price of technology, and references that relate to technology and school counseling. (JDM)

Technology and the School Counselor

By
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Technology and the School Counselor

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In the forward of the 1983 monograph, *Microcomputers and the School Counselor*, Donald G. Hays, Ph.D. writes:

Early man was known by the tools he used. Since early history, people have improved upon the crude tools that were created to ease the burden of humankind. From agrarian society through the industrial age the increasing sophistication of tools determined the very fabric of a civilized society. During the past several decades new technology has brought into existence a new tool that portends a new era known as the "information age." From large, climate controlled rooms filled with banks of metal containers of blinking lights and spinning reels of magnetic tape, has evolved a small television-like screen with a typewriter keyboard capable of storing, manipulating, and retrieving data at incredible speeds and at a reasonable cost. The microcomputer is a tool available at any time to any person of any age.

The school counselor has relied primarily on the tool of the spoken word. It has been his/her trademark—the ability to interact orally with another person to resolve issues of concern to that person. But the counselor has been hampered with archaic means of retaining data needed to supplement the counseling process. The microcomputer is a new tool for the school counselor. (Johnson, C. (Ed.) 1983).

The microcomputer is now seen everywhere: in the classroom, in the counselor's office, on the plane, on the train and in the home. However, there are sections of our country where computers are non-existent or available in limited numbers. President Clinton in the State of the Union Address in January 1996 stated the following:

Every classroom in America must be connected to the information superhighway, with computers and good software, and well-trained teachers. We are working with the telecommunications industry, educators and parents to connect every classroom and every library in the entire United States by the year 2000.

The school counselor has available a whole arsenal of computer related software and materials to assist them as they work with students, parents, and others.

This workshop will address definitions, peer assistants, software, the NET /World Wide Web, popular tools for searching the Web, the price of technology, and references as they relate to technology and the school counselor.

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A. DEFINITIONS:

Domain Names - part of a user's e-mail address:

president@whitehouse.gov

first lady@whitehouse.gov

coy@coefs.coe.unt.edu

http://www.walmart.com

ACA@counseling.org

com-a commercial organization, business or company

edu-an education institution

int-an international organization

gov-a nonmilitary government entity

mil-a military organization

net-a network administration

org-other organizations that are nonprofit, nonacademic and non-governmental

Browser - software, such as Netscape Navigator, that translates coded data into what the user sees on the screen.

E-mail - electronic mail. Messages and information sent by using Internet addresses.

Forum - a site on the Internet where people with a similar interest can gather and share information and ideas.

Gophers - a tool for locating or browsing Internet sites. It is a system of menus developed at the University of Minnesota (home of the Golden Gophers). An Internet address that includes the word "gopher" refers to a location on the Gopher server.

Home page - a Web site, usually the first screen that appears when you locate the site.

Http - the beginning of a Web address that stands for hypertext transfer protocol. This is part Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) used to create Web documents.

Hyperlink - a highlighted or underlined word, phrase or image in a Web document that connects to another part of the document or to another site.

Internet - a collection of computer networks, in the same programming format, exchanging information electronically. No one person or company controls or owns the Internet. It is supported by the users who pay for access from such providers as America OnLine and CompuServe, who in turn pay regional networks for their links. The regional networks pay companies that operate and maintain the Internet circuits throughout the world.

Netiquette - a code of conduct for Internet users.

Postings - a string of newsgroup articles on the same subject.

Server - online computers that store information and distribute it on request. They usually are located at internet provider sites, universities or government buildings.

Snail mail - sending mail by using the postal service, which is extremely slow compared to e-mail.

Spamming - sending junk e-mail.

Thread - a string of newsgroup articles on the same subject.

Veronica - a search program for Gophers.

World Wide Web (WWW) - a network of documents connected by hyperlinks. A Web document or "site" can consist of text, graphics, video, audio and animation. A Web site address begins with http://www.

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B. PEER ASSISTANTS:

Because most schools have a ratio of school counselors to students above the number recommended by the American School Counselor Association (1-250), peer assistants can be a valuable resource in the counseling office. Several high schools train volunteers to assist their peers to handle both computer hardware and software effectively. Students are taught how to operate the computer and how to use the wide variety of software available. Students seeking information such as college choice, financial aid, or career information can have updated information available through the use of various software programs. Peer assistants can work with other students in learning this process. Schools that adopt this procedure discover that such a corps of "student aides" has significantly increased student use of software materials. The counselor can then process the information with the student by assisting the student in making decisions about his/her future.

C. SOFTWARE PROGRAMS:

Computer-Assisted Career-Guidance Systems - the following components are found in most systems: occupational information, armed service information, information about postsecondary institutions of higher learning, information on technical and specialized schools, financial aid information.

CIDS

Career Information Delivery Systems was a direct result of funding from the national Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) through its State Occupational Information Coordinating Committees (SOICCs). Career information is organized in most systems on a national and state basis. The information on occupations is described in terms of its function, related occupations, conditions of work, requirements, salary, and employment outlook. It also includes hiring policies, special programs, and future employment trends.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

Distributed free of charge to high schools throughout the country, the ASVAB was developed by the Department of Defense to assist high school age students interested in exploring military careers.

Career Navigator

This program was designed specifically to assist job seekers, particularly new entrants interested in business and professional careers. Sections of the program include the following: start the program, know yourself, how to communicate, develop your job search tools, conduct your job search campaign, and land the job. Each section includes a sequence of related activities, skill-developing tasks, and time schedules.

Career Ways

This system was published by the Wisconsin Career Information System for use with high school students for educational and career planning. It contains the following modules: Career Ways Tutorial, Self-Portrait, Class Planner, Resume, and Lifestyles.

Choices

Originally developed for Canadian users, this system has been adopted by nineteen states plus the District of Columbia. Information about included occupations is divided into four categories: identification data, descriptive data, coded attribute data, and similar occupations data. Information about 2,400 two-and four-year colleges is

structured in parallel fashion. This system is for general use and used mainly in educational settings.

C-Lect

Marketed by Chronicle Guidance Publications, this system also includes identification of personal temperament and interest patterns in addition to occupational and educational information. This system is for general use and used mainly in educational settings.

DISCOVER

Published by the American College Testing Program, DISCOVER is offered in five versions. DISCOVER for high schools; DISCOVER for colleges and adults; VISIONS for middle schools and VISIONS Plus both of which were developed for the Maryland SOICC, and DISCOVER for the Military. DISCOVER contains the following modules: beginning the career journey, learning about the world of work, learning about yourself, finding occupations, learning about occupations, making educational choices, planning next steps, planning your career, and making transitions. DISCOVER was originally designed for high school and college students and for colleges and adults.

Guidance Information System (GIS)

GIS provides access to ten possible files: occupational information, armed services occupations, two-year college file, four-year college file, graduate and professional school file, financial aid file, majors and career file, interest inventory score entry, career decision-making system, and state vocational school files.

System of Interactive Guidance and Information (SIGI Plus)

SIGI Plus was developed at Educational Testing Service. The philosophic basis for SIGI proposes that values identification and clarification are basic to an effective career decision process involving evaluation of the rewards and risks that accompany each option. There are nine separate modules or sections which include: introduction, self-assessment, search, information, skills, preparing, coping, deciding, and next steps.

Career-Assisted Career Guidance Systems for Elementary and Middle/Junior High Students

Choices Jr. (Middle); C-Lect Jr. (Middle); COIN JR (Middle); Visions (Middle); Discover for Middle/Junior; GIS Jr. (Middle); Career Trek (4 through middle)

D. INTERNET / WORLD WIDE WEB:

Internet World Wide Web

The "Net," as it is commonly called in our shorthand culture, offers a new tool with the potential to transform access to information in the counseling office, as well as the speed, quality and quantity of that information. Material on the Net can be as timely as news wires and satellite feeds. At the same time the storehouse of information on the Net is unequalled. It is like a real-time, all-inclusive encyclopedia that multiplies moment by moment.

The Net offers a composite library and laboratory housed in the World Wide Web's dynamic environment. The Web was created in 1992 by a software expert who wanted to make the Internet more user-friendly and accessible. The Web encouraged

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thousands of people to venture onto the Net, and in turn spurred entrepreneurs to invent "Web browser" software to help users find their way around.

The Net not only offers new ways to find and receive data, making us information gatherers, but it also allows us to be data publishers and distributors. With a counselor's guidance, the Net's vast resources can be transformed into a virtual, interactive and collaborative global classroom. This technology gives us a greater range of communication options with e-mail (an electronic letter), newsgroups (electronic bulletin boards that post current information on a particular topic for specific interest groups) and listservs (electronic mailing lists available by user subscription).

Web Sites for School Counselors and Educators

AskERIC Virtual Library

AskERIC Toolbox (<http://ericir.syr.edu/Qa/Toolbox/>)

Includes links to education-related sites.

AskERIC InfoGuides (http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/index_infoguides)

InfoGuides are similar to annotated bibliographies of resources on a particular topic.

Education Listserv Archive (<gopher://ericir.syr.edu:70/11/Listservs>)

This section consists of addresses for a host of education-related listservs.

Television Series Companion Materials (<http://ericir.syr.edu/Virtual/Television/>)

Provides material from places such as the Discovery Channel School, Newton's Apple, PBS Online, Frontline Online, C-Span, the ABC Classroom Connection, CNN Newsroom and Teen Court TV.

Apple Computer Inc.

(<http://www.info.apple.com/education/>)

Information on Apple's extensive education program; also Apple Classroom of Tomorrow (<http://www.info.apple.com/>)

Bell South Corp

(<http://www.bstbls.com/bhs/pressreleases.html>)

Press releases on Bell South's educational technology programs.

Bolt Berneak and Newman Inc., National School Network Testbed

(<http://copernicus.bbn.com/testbed2/>)

BBN describes in detail a comprehensive demo project in school networking.

Booklist. American Library Association.

(<http://ala.org/booklist.html>)

Electronic version of "Booklist" magazine. Selection of books for adults and youth arranged by subject and genre, audio visual media and reference materials.

Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA)

(<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/alhp/message.html>)

Annotated lists of best books, quick picks and selected books and videos for young adults.

Classroom Connect on the Net

(<http://wentworth.com/classroom/default.html>)

Provides lesson plans, libraries, museums, science projects and other valuable resources.

D. Popular tools for searching the Web's vast and growing storehouse of information:

Alta Vista	http://altavista.digital.com
Excite	http://www.excite.com
Infoseek	http://guide.infoseek.com
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com
Netscape Navigator	http://www.netscape.com
OpenText	http://www.opentext.com:8080
WebCrawler	http://www.webcrawler.com

E. The Price of Technology

The external connections; the internal connection; the computer, video and related hardware (including the file servers, printers, scanners and other equipment needed for full function); training, and ongoing operational support.

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